



On June 22, 2015, the City of Cleveland approved an ordinance to implement a stormwater utility fee program to address long-standing flooding issues that impact local citizens and a federally-mandated water quality improvement program. Many local governments in Tennessee, including Chattanooga, Hamilton County, and Signal Mountain, have already implemented similar fee programs.



### **What is stormwater runoff?**

Stormwater runoff is the water that flows off roofs, driveways, parking lots, streets and other hard surfaces during rain storms. The runoff that is not absorbed into the ground pours into ditches, culverts, catch basins and storm sewers.

### **Why is stormwater runoff a problem?**

As precipitation falls on undeveloped areas, it is primarily absorbed into the ground or slowly runs off into streams, rivers or other water bodies. However, development resulting in rooftops and paved areas prevents water from being absorbed and create a faster rate of runoff. This development often causes localized flooding or water quality issues in local waterways.



### **Why has the City of Cleveland chosen to implement a separate fee for stormwater management?**

By establishing a dedicated funding source through stormwater fees, the City can ensure that the revenue required to manage and maintain this important City program is available. The utility fees will enable the City to construct necessary capital improvement projects to reduce the risk to public health and safety from flooding and stream water quality.

## What is the basis for the fee that is charged?

The stormwater utility fee is based on the square footage of impervious surface area (i.e. hard surfaces that generate stormwater runoff) on your lot. In essence, customers pay a fee related to the amount of runoff generated from their site, which is directly related to the amount of impervious surface on the site.

## When will the stormwater fee take effect?

The existing stormwater charge on the current Cleveland Utilities bill will be replaced by the new stormwater utility fee starting in January 2016.

## What will it cost me?

Most single-family homes will be charged a rate of \$3.25 each month. However, for equity purposes, the City Council has proposed a tiered rate system, as per the table below. Multi-family units such as apartments and townhomes will be charged a rate similar to the smallest tier.

Impervious Area	Monthly Fee
< 1,775 sq. ft.	\$1.65
1,776 to 5,900 sq. ft.	\$3.25
> 5,901 sq. ft.	\$4.90

## How are non-residential property fees determined and billed?

All non-residential properties will be billed at a rate based on their impervious area as well. To determine the monthly fee, divide the total impervious area of your property by 3,830 square feet (or one Single Family Unit) to obtain the number of SFUs and multiply by the base single family rate (\$3.25 per month per SFU).

For more information, please call: (423) 479-1913 or visit: <http://clevelandtn.gov/DocumentCenter/View/666>